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May 17, 2001

LB 305

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. While the pages are passing out a summary of materials of my amendment, let me just first issue a round of thank yous. I want to thank my colleagues on the Education Committee, first and foremost, for being very accommodating. Some of you have heard me say oftentimes, especially in that committee, I felt like everyone else was on horseback and I was on foot. There are very complex issues in there, and I appreciate the work that all of us did for a month on LB 305. I reached a different conclusion than my colleagues did, but that does not mean that I repudiate all the hard work that everyone did. It was very informative. It was very necessary. I just simply reached a different conclusion on how we should proceed. I especially thank Senator Brashear. I also want to thank Senators Quandahl, Bourne, and Redfield for helping me clarify my own thoughts on how to proceed on LB 305, and Senator Raikes, as well, deserves thanks, the Chairman of the Education Committee. Obviously, we have different ideas on how to proceed with this bill, but he and I have had a continuing conversation, not just about this bill, but about broader issues of teacher pay and school finance. It's been very informative, very helpful for me. I'm grateful for it. I'd also like to thank Senator Chambers. He and I have had numerous conversations about LB 305. I don't expect that he is going to support my approach today, but those conversations, they have informed me in greater detail about his concerns and, again, they've helped me clarify my own views. With that, hopefully, you have had a chance to receive the summary of materials. Why don't we do two things. Let's go through the provisions of my amendment. Then I'd like to step back and talk about the bigger picture. Okay, first the amendment, itself, it's AM2055. The first bullet point says no sale increase. I put that there because I think that's the main issue here. This is the thing we need to get clarified. Is there a majority support in this body for a sales tax hike or not? And then I explain there that my amendment would eliminate the current version of LB 305 and replace it with the following items. Now I've been a little self-conscious about references to the Maxwell plan, and Maxwell alternative. Every thing that is before you is somebody else's idea. Let's be honest about that up front. I have borrowed from other possibilities out